tional purposes include the following:

—Establishment of the National Natural Resources Management Systems (NNRMS) with Department of Space (DOS) as the nodal agency;

—Result-oriented application projects have been taken up in collaboration with use departments. These projects are implemented in a mission mode with end-to-end goals such as Wasteland mapping, Ground water targetting, Integrated approach to combat drought, Mineral exploration, Urban sprawl/land use mapping, Agricultural applications mission etc.

—Establishment of a network of Regional Remote Sensing Centres (RRSCs) intended to service the user organisations in the country;

—Establishment of number of State Government Remote Sensing Application Centres/Units/Cells;

—Indigenisation of remote sensing interpretation equipments, development of organisational mechanism for interaction and exchange expertise among various user Departments of Government of India and State Governments;

—Strengthening the existing National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Space Applications Centre (SAC) under DOS, which are carrying on all remote sensing activities.

The activities undertaken under NNRMS represent the result-oriented application projects and programmes of the Department for overall national development.

Popularisation of Computer

2126. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to popularise computers in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up village-based computers;

(c) whether a pilot project is proposed to be set up for that purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir, Government is taking steps to popularise computers in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Technology Mission on Bio-technology

2127. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to harness bio-technology in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a Technology Mission on bio-technology; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, The Government has set up an Integrated National Biotechnology Board in 1982 which was replaced by a new separate Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science & Technology in 1986 to harness biotechnology in diffe-